

REAL ESTATE OR RECREATION

An Editorial

Is the Recreation Commission of this city dealing in real estate; or are they dealing in recreation?
The Recreation Commission and several members of the City Council are right now asking the citizens of Torrance to accept a high priced program of park development that will assertedly "cost the taxpayer nothing." They are claiming that the new residents, the families that move into our city, will be footing the bill.

The Actual Costs

It may appear on the surface that all future park sites are being bought by new homeowners. But, in reality, the major expense of an expanded park program, designed primarily for "bird and bee lovers," is the actual construction and continuous maintenance of the parks. And such a program, we charge, will sky-rocket the tax rate of this city for years to come.

Grassy parks, with fancy trees and shrubs, do not keep the kiddies off the streets, and do not provide a

recreation program.

Recreation consists, rather, of well-supervised, constructive, year-round recreational and social activity for everyone, child, youth and adult.

Co-ordinated Plan

There is only one way that such a program can be inaugurated in this city, and that is by a co-ordinated program utilizing the facilities and funds of both the city and the schools, in a joint program.

The money is there—the facilities are there. So far, our recreation "experts" have found plenty of land to buy and have evolved some "mighty high falutin'" schemes for building terraced rose gardens, but no mention has been made yet of a recreation program for you and me.

We can have such a program, that would serve all citizens regardless of age. And we can have it without extra fees and hidden charges.

If the Torrance City Council and the Board of Educa-

tion will stop shirking their responsibilities and start now to look out for the interests of the child in the street we can have a recreation program here that will rival the best in the state. And for little less than we now pay for a totally inadequate program.

Year-Around Program

By combining the funds available to both the city and the schools and by pooling recreation facilities now controlled and operated separately, a year-round program, providing recreation for the whole of Torrance instead of just a part of it, can be instituted.

To this end, a group of civic-minded citizens have joined together to form the Citizens' Committee for Better Recreation. Chairmanned by Arthur Sues, a former recreation leader in the State of Colorado, this organization has set up a recreation program, similar to the one used so successfully in Long Beach for 25 years.

Working on the assumption that all public facilities, whether controlled by the city or the schools, belongs to

the same person—the taxpayer—this group has asked those two tax-supported agencies to develop and administer a joint recreation program.

Under the Citizens' Committee plan, the \$40,000 now being spent by the city, plus the county appropriation, plus the money readily available to the schools, an excellent basic recreation program, administered by the schools is easily within our reach—if we act now.

No Debts Left

For very little more than we now pay, this city can have a program of year-round recreation activity without building up debts that will be left for the next two generations to pay.

We haven't forgotten all the propaganda we heard about the recent \$2,000,000 water bond issue. That, too, was going to "cost us nothing." Yet, we are all paying between 70 and 80 per cent more for our water now. Let's not let that happen with the park and recreation program.

TORRANCE PRESS

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VOLUME IV THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953 — TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA NUMBER 51

MERCHANTS HIT PLAN TO MOVE CIVIC CENTER

Petitions Being Circulated Now

Organized opposition is developing this week to a plan to move civic center from its present location to a site on Torrance blvd., at Madrona street.

A group of downtown merchants are circulating petitions among their fellow businessmen calling for a meeting with the city council to present the case against the move.

One of the petitioners declared that a large number of merchants are planning to appear at the next City Council meeting on April 14 to lodge their protest.

OK Negotiations
The council last week unanimously authorized City Manager George Stevens to begin negotiations to acquire the 30-acre tract lying between Madrona and Maple Sts., along Torrance Blvd., for a future civic center site.

Neither the city manager nor the members of the city council have been willing to make a public statement regarding the petitions.

100 Signers
More than 100 central Torrance businessmen have reportedly signed the petitions, which read as follows:

"To the Honorable Members of the Torrance City Council,
"We the following business people and property owners of the original Torrance Business District would like to protest the contemplated purchase of the tract of ground located on Torrance
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THREE SEEK TOP MOOSE LODGE POST

Members of the Torrance lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose will cast their votes next Monday for a slate of new officers and, for the first time in several years, a three-cornered race has developed for the office of lodge governor.

Contestants

The names of Stanley Heiman, Joseph Platt and Daniel Desmond will appear on the ballot as candidates for the highest office in the local organization. Heiman, a past junior governor, will be making his second bid for the office, while Joe Platt, present prelate, will be seeking the office for the first time. Desmond is a past governor of the lodge.

Other Candidates

Robert J. Smith and O. W. Sawyer will appear on the ballot as candidates for junior governor. Carl W. Fisher and J.L. Olson will seek the position of lodge prelate, while Fred Lydy, Dan Hutchinson and Jessie Johnston are seeking the treasurer's job. Harry Green and Henry Olson are candidates for the one vacancy on the Board of Trustees.

Lodge members will cast their ballots at the lodge hall, 1744 W. Carson St., between the hours of 12 noon and 9 p.m. on Monday, April 6th. Results will be announced late in the same evening.

Dance Planned

An open house dance will be presented by the Torrance lodge Loyal Order of Moose at the lodge hall, 1744 W. Carson St., on Saturday, April 4, at 8:30 p.m., Marvin MacArthur, governor, announced today.

MacArthur also revealed that a turkey dinner and dance will be open to the public on Saturday, April 18.



PROMOTED—Georgia E. Patterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Patterson of 17348 Yukon ave., Torrance, is congratulated by Maj. Lawrence R. Davis, chief of personnel at Tokyo, Japan, Army Hospital, after receiving her promotion to corporal at the hospital. Corporal Patterson, a hospital ward attendant, arrived in the Far East in March 1952. She is assigned to Company C of the Tokyo WAC Battalion, 823rd Army Unit, Headquarters and Service Command, Far East Command. Corporal Patterson served with the Women's Army Corps in 1944, re-enlisting in February 1951.

Tidwell to Appear

Union Trial Board to Meet Monday Night
Evidence in the controversy between Haskell Tidwell and other top executives of the Retail Clerks Union Local 905 will be heard Monday in the first of what will reportedly be a series of hearings by the five-man trial board set up two weeks ago.

The trial board, said to consist of Allen Risk, of McCown Drug Co., Ben Scott, of Sav-Mor Markets, Walt Scheppman, of Better Foods Markets, Norman Kelly and George Hebert, both of Market Town, will meet Monday in San Pedro to review the evidence. It was reported that Tidwell will appear before the Board on Monday.

Reports indicate that other similar hearings will be held before April 17, at which time all findings are expected to be reported to the membership.

The controversy in the union flared into the open when Wally Elliott, the union's president, and John Anderson and Daniel Anderson, two of the trustees of 905, reportedly charged Tidwell with irregularity in administration of union business.

Two Local Firms Get Army Bids

Army Ordnance contracts totaling more than one and one-half million dollars have been awarded to two Torrance firms, it was announced today by Col. W. S. Broberg, Chief of the Los Angeles Army Ordnance District.

National Supply Co. was awarded a contract of \$1,535,450 for 155mm gun tube forgings.

The second contract went to Harvey Machine Co. The contract totaled \$120,656 for 30mm projectiles and also to the same company \$32,865 for 57mm shells, Col. Broberg said.

Carson Club Plans 'Teen Queen' Contest

A complete summer wardrobe will be awarded to the Keystone-Carson area Miss who cops the title "Queen of the Teens" in a contest to be held next month. The competition will be staged in conjunction with the annual Spring Carnival held by the Carson Chamber of Commerce.

The carnival is slated for May 21, 22, 23, and 24 on the parking area of the Villa Market, 231st st. and Avalon blvd., according to Lloyd Desmond, press chairman of the event.

Proceeds from both the contest and the carnival will be used to promote youth activities in the area, and 25 per cent of the profits will be donated to the Avalon-Sepulveda Recreation Park, Desmond stated.

All Carson area young ladies, between the ages of 15 and 19, (Continued on Page 8)

Mortgage On Union Hall Ends

Last Saturday night, after 11 years, the mortgage on the Torrance Labor Temple was burned before the assembled membership of Local 1414, U.S.A.-C.I.O.

Local president George Steele put the match to the mortgage with the assistance of four past-presidents of the same local.

Ex-Presidents

The four former officials gave brief talks on the history of labor organization in this city and described the origin of Local 1414. Addressing the audience were Carl D. Steele, first president of the local, Kenny Beight, Alex McJannet and Vic Teer. Tom Wagner, also a past president, was absent due to illness.

President Steele gave much of the credit for paying off the mortgage on the Temple to Le Roy Constance, financial secretary and Michael Orady, treasurer. Since these two men took office in 1948 more than half the total cost of the building was paid, he stated, and added that the union is in better financial condition now than ever before.

Building Strong Union

Steele lauded the efforts of other union committees during the (Continued on Page 8)



PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS—Frank Kristufek, second from left, receives check for \$50 from William Zappas, co-publisher of the Torrance Press, after Kristufek's picture (see page 5) was adjudged the finest in the First Annual Torrance Press Amateur Photography Contest. Second prize winner, Ron Forestal, was not present for ceremony. Third prize winner is Mrs. Warren Naslund, second from right. At left, Contest Judge James Giacalone, holds second prize, a complete home developing outfit, while Harry Petro, another judge, prepares to give Mrs. Naslund her prize, an Eastman Duaflex camera and six rolls of film.

Water Bond Rate Parallel Seen

Opposition Forming Against Park Levy

It was rumored this week that one of the five Torrance City Councilmen has asked City Attorney James Hall to write another ordinance to exact a \$100 per gross acre fee on all new housing developments here.

The bill would provide that \$100 per gross acre would be levied on new tracts of four or more homes. The funds thus gained would, allegedly, be earmarked for the development of parks in the new subdivision.

Investigation Being Made

A similar ordinance was killed in the council last week after one of the councilmen protested. The lawmaker, Victor E. Benstead, pointed out that several civic and business groups in the city are now making a thorough investigation of previous expenditures of tax funds for parks and recreation.

He asked his colleagues to hold up passage of the bill for at least

Contest Winners Named

Frank Kristufek, of 2104 Martina ave., is \$50 richer this week following the announcement of the judges in the First Annual Torrance Press Amateur Photography Contest.

Kristufek, whose picture of his infant son's reaction to cereal was adjudged the best of hundreds of pictures entered in the contest, was awarded top prize of \$50 in cash by William R. Zappas, co-publisher of the Torrance Press.

Other Winners

Other top prize winners were Ron Forestal, 22632 Gaycrest Ave., who received second prize, a complete home developing outfit given by A-1 Photo Supplies, and Mrs. Warren Naslund, 21317 Lynton St., (Continued on Page 8)



BURNING CEREMONY—Eleven years after the purchase of the Torrance Labor Temple, officials and members of Local 1414, steelworkers, gathered at the Temple to burn the mortgage on the building. Above, Local 1414's President George Steele, second from right, touches a match to the document. Four of the local's five past presidents look on. They are, left to right, Carl Steele, first president, Kenneth Beight, Alex McJannet, and Victor Teer. Thomas Wagner, also a former president, was not present. Bob Wilson, president of the office workers union, Local 2586, also participated in the ceremony.

Come to Church on Easter

